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It should be understood that the user will make a request in combination with a user identifier which may be an account and password or simply the Internet cookie or other identifier attached by the device which transmits the user's request for information. The information generated by the traffic information system of this invention, which is specific to a particular user, is transmitted in association with the user identifier so that the information returns to the user who made a specific request.

It should be understood that nominal route velocity, means the velocity along a route segment based on historical data, for a similar day, at a similar time.

It is understood that the invention is not limited to the particular construction and arrangement of parts herein illustrated and described, but embraces such modified forms thereof as come within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A method of predicting traffic conditions on a route segment at a future time comprising the steps of:

for a selected future time, determining the expected nominal route velocity for a selected route segment;

for the selected route segment determining at least one weather prediction region which contains the route segment;

for the selected future time determining predicted weather conditions within the at least one weather prediction region;

producing an adjusted route velocity for the route segment by applying a function to the nominal route velocity which includes as parameters the predicted weather conditions within the at least one weather prediction region to produce an adjusted route velocity which is less than the nominal route velocity.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the weather prediction regions are counties.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the function comprises a lookup table containing factors of a value of less than one for specific forecasted weather conditions.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein weather prediction with respect to the weather prediction region is obtained over the Internet.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusted route velocity comprises a range which is consistent with the probabilistic range of the predicted weather conditions.

6. A method of providing predicted trip times between an origin and a destination comprising the steps of:

receiving over the Internet a request for travel time, including an origin, a destination, a trip start time, and a user identifier;

determining a route between the origin and the destination, comprised of at least one route segment;

determining a predicted speed over the at least one route segment based on historical data for travel speeds over said route segment during good driving weather during a similar time period;

determining at least one weather prediction region encompassing the route between the origin and the destination;

determining predicted weather conditions within the weather prediction region at the time in proximity to the start time;

for the predicted weather conditions determine a weather delay factor;

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determining a predicted trip time based on historical data for travel speeds, adjusted by the weather delay factor; transmitting the predicted trip time in association with the user identifier.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the weather prediction regions are counties.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the weather delay factor is determined with a lookup table containing factors having a value of less than one for specific forecasted weather conditions.

9. The method of claim 6 wherein weather predicted conditions with respect to the weather prediction region is obtained over the Internet.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the predicted trip time comprises a range of times which is consistent with the probabilistic range of the predicted weather conditions.

11. A method of providing predicted trip times between an origin and a destination comprising the steps of:

receiving over the Internet a request for travel time, including an origin, a destination, a trip start time, a user identifier, and a user specific factor;

determining a route between the origin and the destination, comprised of at least one route segment; determining at least one weather prediction region encompassing the route between the origin and the destination;

determining a predicted speed over the at least one route segment, based on the start time;

determining a predicted trip time adjusted by the user specific factor;

transmitting the predicted trip time in association with the user identifier.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the user specific factor is a type of vehicle being driven by the user.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the user specific factor is a behavioral characteristic of the user.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining a predicted trip time includes:

determining predicted weather conditions within the weather prediction region at a time in proximity to the start time;

for the predicted weather conditions determining a weather delay factor; and

determining the predicted trip time, and adjusting by the weather delay factor.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the function comprises a lookup table containing factors having a value of less than one for specific forecasted weather conditions.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein weather prediction with respect to the weather prediction region is obtained over the Internet.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein the adjusted route velocity comprises a range which is consistent with the probabilistic range of the predicted weather conditions.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein the weather prediction regions are counties.

19. A method of providing predicted trip times between an origin and a destination comprising the steps of:

receiving over the Internet a request from the user for travel time, including an origin, a destination, a trip start time, and a user identifier;

determining a route between the origin and the destination, comprised of at least one route segment;

determining a predicted speed over the at least one route segment based on historical data for travel speeds over said route segment during a similar time period;